United Nations A/58/497 (Part II)

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 December 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 106

Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Report of the Third Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendation made by the Third Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 106 appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/58/497 (Part I).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.7

2. At the 10th meeting, on 14 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Mongolia, Myanmar and Panama, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Cooperatives in social development" (A/C.3/58/L.7) and orally revised operative paragraph 5 (c) by inserting the words "and implementing" between the words "promoting" and "better legislation".

3. At the same meeting, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the Sudan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

4. At its 23rd meeting, on 23 October, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of Mongolia further orally revised the draft resolution by replacing the words "to provide further assistance" in operative paragraph 8 with the words "to continue to provide assistance".

6. Barbados, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, the Congo, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El

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Salvador, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guatemala, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Morocco, the Philippines, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Republic of Tanzania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as further orally revised.

7. Also at its 23rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.7, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 20, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.8 and Rev.1

8. At the 10th meeting, on 14 October, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Barbados, the Philippines, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela, introduced and orally revised a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century", which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 49/153 of 23 December 1994, 50/144 of 21 December 1995, 52/82 of 12 December 1997, 54/121 of 17 December 1999 and 56/115 of 19 December 2001,

"*Recalling further* all of its relevant resolutions on the equalization of opportunities for and the human rights of persons with disabilities, and those of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted on 8 September 2000 by the heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, and recognizing the need to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of people with disabilities,

"*Noting with appreciation* the initiatives and actions of Governments to implement relevant sections of the Standard Rules and of relevant resolutions that give special attention to accessible environments and information and communications technologies, health, education and social services, employment and sustainable livelihoods, including the relevant activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

"*Reaffirming* the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their respective follow-up reviews,

"*Noting with appreciation* the assessment by the Secretary-General of the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities, ensuring their full participation and equality, as well as the measures taken by the United Nations system aimed at preventing disabling conditions,

"*Noting* the adoption by the World Assembly on Ageing of the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, which considered 'older persons and disability' as a specific issue for policy concern,

"*Noting also* the preparatory work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities of establishing a Working Group with the aim of preparing and presenting a draft text which would be the basis for the negotiation of the draft convention,

"*Recognizing* the strong commitment of Governments to the equalization of opportunities and to the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of development, as well as the increased interest of the international community in the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities under a comprehensive and integral approach,

"*Acknowledging* the important role of non-governmental organizations in the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities, and noting in this regard their work in promoting the elaboration of an international convention on the rights of disabled persons,

"*Noting with appreciation* the important contributions of regional intergovernmental organizations and the regional commissions of the United Nations in promoting awareness and building capacities for the full participation and equality of persons with disabilities, as well as the outcome of international conferences related to persons with disabilities, including the Interregional Seminar and Demonstration Workshop on Accessible Information and Communications Technologies and Persons with Disabilities, held in Manila in March 2003,

"*Mindful* of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies to promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities at all levels, including at the community level,

"*Reiterating* that technology, in particular information and communications technology, provides new possibilities for improving accessibility and employment for persons with disabilities and for facilitating their full and effective participation and equality, and welcoming the initiatives of the United Nations and contributions from regional groups in promoting information and communications technology as a means of achieving the universal goal of a society for all,

"*Recognizing* the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive topics, programme planning and evaluation and the need for further development of practical statistical methodology for the collection and compilation of data on populations with disabilities,

"*Recognizing also* the challenge for the new century to incorporate the disability dimension better in mainstream technical cooperation activities, since persons with disabilities are also agents and beneficiaries of development,

"*Concerned* that improvement of awareness of and sensitivity to disability issues and respect for the human rights of disabled persons has not

been significant enough to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide,

"*Concerned also* about the slow progress on measurement, monitoring and evaluation of the situation of persons with disabilities as a mainstream issue,

"*Concerned further* that the association between poverty and disability needs to be addressed with reference to a development framework as well as the critical importance of rural issues affecting the situation of persons with disabilities,

"*Expressing grave concern* that situations of armed conflict and acts of terrorism continue to have especially devastating consequences for the human rights of persons with disabilities,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons; including the Secretary-General's recommendations related to policy options to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of development;

"2. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable work undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development related to a comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, in which a twin-track approach in the process to elaborate the convention was recommended, and also notes with appreciation the contribution of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in supporting the work of the Special Rapporteur;

"3. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to continue to take concrete measures to mainstream persons with disabilities into the development process and promote the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions and agreed international standards concerning persons with disabilities, in particular the Standard Rules, and for the further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities by focusing on accessibility, health, education, social services, sports and cultural development, including training and rehabilitation, information and communications technologies, safety nets, employment and sustainable livelihoods, in the design and implementation of strategies, policies and programmes to promote a more inclusive society;

"4. *Calls upon* Governments to undertake all necessary measures to advance beyond the adoption of national plans for people with disabilities through, inter alia, the creation or reinforcement of arrangements for the promotion and awareness of disability issues and the allocation of sufficient resources for the full implementation of existing plans and initiatives, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of supporting national efforts through international cooperation;

"5. *Encourages* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to take practical actions, including public information campaigns, by, for and with persons with disabilities, with a

view to increasing awareness of and sensitivity to disability issues, combating and overcoming discrimination against persons with disabilities and furthering their full and effective participation in society;

"6. *Encourages* Governments to continue their support to non-governmental organizations and other groups, including self-help groups, that contribute to the fulfilment of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and in this regard, recognizes the important contribution of the Washington Group on Disability Measurement of the Statistical Commission;

"7. *Also encourages* Governments to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of strategies and plans aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting education and enhancing employment;

"8. *Urges* relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, to continue to work closely with the programme on disability of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Secretariat in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, including activities at the field level, by sharing experiences, findings, and recommendations on persons with disabilities, and to incorporate the disability perspective in their activities;

"9. *Stresses* the importance of urgent action to improve data and statistics on persons with disabilities so that they can be compared internationally for purposes of policy design, planning and evaluation from the disability perspective;

"10. *Urges* Governments to cooperate with the Statistics Division of the Secretariat in the continued development of global statistics and indicators on disability, and encourages them to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Division to build national capacities for national data collection systems, including the compilation and dissemination of data on disabled persons, as well as the development of methods for data collection and disability statistics, as appropriate;

"11. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide special protection to girls and women with disabilities, older people with disabilities, rural people with disabilities, indigenous people with disabilities, persons disabled owing to terrorist acts and armed conflict and persons with developmental and psychiatric disabilities, with special emphasis on integrating them into society through enabling interventions and environments essential to their independence, including reasonable accommodation, and protecting and promoting their human rights;

"12. *Urges* Governments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, to give special attention to the rights, needs and well-being of children with disabilities and their families in the development of policies and programmes, including the implementation of the Standard Rules;

"13. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability with a view to strengthening its capacity to support catalytic and innovative activities to implement fully the World Programme of Action and the Standard Rules, including the work of the Special Rapporteur, and to support activities to build national capacities, with emphasis on priorities for action identified in the present resolution;

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to support initiatives of relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as those of regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, for the promotion of all human rights of, and non-discrimination in respect of, persons with disabilities and the further implementation of the World Programme of Action, as well as their efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in technical cooperation activities, both as beneficiaries and as decision makers;

"15. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts in improving the accessibility of the United Nations for persons with disabilities, and urges him to continue to implement plans to provide a barrier-free environment;

"16. *Welcomes* the review by the Secretary-General in his current report on the fourth quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

9. At the same meeting, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

10. At the 28th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of the Philippines circulated additional revisions to the draft resolution. The revised text was subsequently issued in document A/C.3/58/L.8/Rev.1, and was sponsored by Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chile, China, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

12. Also at the 28th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.8/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 20, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.11

13. At the 10th meeting, on 14 October, the representative of Senegal, on behalf of Belgium, Benin, Cape Verde, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Mali, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth" (A/C.3/58/L.11). At the same meeting, Argentina, Cameroon, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Republic of Tanzania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. At its 34th meeting, on 6 November, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

15. At the same meeting, the representative of Portugal orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) At the end of the first preambular paragraph, the words "and the two Optional Protocols thereto" were added;

(b) At the end of operative paragraph 11, the words "bearing in mind the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General" were replaced by the words "and, where such reviews and action plans exist, to submit them to the Secretariat by September 2004";

(c) At the beginning of operative paragraph 13, the words "*Decides* to devote" were replaced by the words "*Recommends* devoting";

(d) In operative paragraph 14, the words "and youth representatives" were inserted after the words "meeting with youth organizations";

(e) In operative paragraph 19, the words "to take into account the five concerns" were replaced by the words "to bear in mind the five issues";

(f) In operative paragraph 20, the words "to invite the Director-General of the International Labour Organization, in the context of the Youth Employment Network, to submit" were replaced by the words "to include in his report".

16. Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, the Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iceland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Slovakia, Swaziland, Thailand, the

former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

17. Also at its 34th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.11, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 20, draft resolution III).

D. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

18. At its 58th meeting, on 26 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 (E/CN.5/2003/6; see also A/58/67-E/2003/49) (see para. 21).

19. The representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.3/58/SR.58).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

20. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Cooperatives in social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992, 49/155 of 23 December 1994, 51/58 of 12 December 1996, 54/123 of 17 December 1999 and 56/114 of 19 December 2001, concerning cooperatives in social development,

Recognizing that cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older persons and people with disabilities, and are becoming a major factor of economic and social development,

Recognizing also the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996, and their five-year reviews, the World Food Summit, held at Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held at Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002, the International Conference on Financing for Development, held at Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Draws the attention* of Member States to the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General for further action to promote a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives;

3. *Also draws the attention* of Member States to the revised guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, to be considered by them in developing or revising their national policies on cooperatives;

4. *Encourages* Governments to keep under review, as appropriate, the legal and administrative provisions governing the activities of cooperatives, with a view to ensuring a supportive environment for them and to protecting and advancing the potential of cooperatives to help them achieve their goals;

5. *Urges* Governments, relevant international organizations and specialized agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and their five-year reviews, the

[1] A/58/159.

World Food Summit, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development by, inter alia:

(a) Utilizing and developing fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

(b) Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups to engage on a voluntary basis in the creation and development of cooperatives;

(c) Taking appropriate measures aimed at creating a supportive and enabling environment for the development of cooperatives by, inter alia, developing an effective partnership between Governments and the cooperative movement, promoting and implementing better legislation, training, research, sharing of good practices and human resources development;

6. *Invites* Governments, in collaboration with the cooperative movement, to develop programmes to promote and strengthen the education of members, the elected leadership and professional cooperative management, where appropriate, and to create or improve statistical databases on the development of cooperatives and on their contribution to national economies;

7. *Also invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, specialized agencies and local, national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and other international organizations and national, regional and international cooperative organizations, to render support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, to continue to provide assistance for human resources development, technical advice and training, and to promote an exchange of experience and best practices, through, inter alia, conferences, workshops and seminars at the national and regional levels;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, focusing on the role of cooperatives in the eradication of poverty.

Draft resolution II
Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[1] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[2]

Recalling also its relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[3] 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and 56/115 of 19 December 2001, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted on 8 September 2000 by heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations,[4] stressing the need to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, and recognizing the importance of incorporating the disability perspective in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives and actions of Governments to implement relevant sections of the Standard Rules and of relevant resolutions that give special attention to the questions of accessible environments and information and communication technologies, health, education and social services, employment and sustainable livelihoods, including the relevant activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Reaffirming the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their respective follow-up reviews,

Noting that the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing,[5] considers "older persons and disabilities" as a specific issue for policy concern,

Noting also the preparatory work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities in establishing a Working Group with the aim of preparing and presenting a draft text that would be the basis for the negotiation of the draft convention,

Recognizing the strong commitment of Governments to the equalization of opportunities and to the rights of persons with disabilities and the promotion and

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[1] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[2] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[3] A/57/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).
[4] See resolution 55/2.
[5] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities, including in the context of development,

Acknowledging the important role of non-governmental organizations in the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities, and noting in this regard their work in promoting the elaboration of an international convention on the rights of disabled persons,

Noting with appreciation the important contributions of regional intergovernmental organizations and the regional commissions of the United Nations in promoting awareness and building capacities for the full participation and equality of persons with disabilities, as well as the outcome of international conferences relating to persons with disabilities,

Mindful of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies to promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities at all levels,

Recognizing the importance of accessibility both of the physical environment and of information and communication in enabling persons with disabilities to fully enjoy their human rights,

Reiterating that technology, in particular information and communication technologies, provides new possibilities for improving accessibility and employment for persons with disabilities and for facilitating their full and effective participation and equality, and welcoming the initiatives of the United Nations and contributions from regional groups in promoting information and communication technologies as a means of achieving the universal goal of a society for all,

Recognizing the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive topics, programme planning and evaluation and the need for the further development of practical statistical methodology for the collection and compilation of data on populations with disabilities,

Recognizing also the challenge of better incorporating the disability perspective in development and technical cooperation activities,

Recognizing further the need to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide through the enhancement of awareness of and sensitivity to disability issues and respect for the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities,

Recognizing that in the elaboration of national and international development strategies, consideration needs to be given to the impact of poverty, especially in rural areas, on the conditions of persons with disabilities,

Expressing grave concern that situations of armed conflict continue to have especially devastating consequences for the human rights of persons with disabilities,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General[6] on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[3] including the Secretary-General's recommendations relating to policy

[6] A/58/61-E/2003/5.

options to promote the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities in the context of development;

2. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development to promote the full enjoyment of all human rights by, and the equalization of opportunities for, persons with disabilities;

3. *Calls upon* Governments to take all necessary measures to advance beyond the adoption of national plans for people with disabilities through, inter alia, the creation or reinforcement of arrangements for the promotion and awareness of disability issues and the allocation of sufficient resources for the full implementation of existing plans and initiatives, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of supporting national efforts through international cooperation;

4. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to continue to take concrete measures to mainstream the disability perspective into the development process and promote the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions and agreed international standards concerning persons with disabilities, in particular the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and for the further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities;

5. *Encourages* Governments to continue their support to non-governmental organizations and other groups, including organizations of persons with disabilities, that contribute to the fulfilment of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

6. *Also encourages* Governments to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of strategies and plans, in particular those pertaining to them;

7. *Urges* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, to incorporate the disability perspective in their activities, as appropriate, and to continue to work closely with the Division for Social Policy and Development for the promotion of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, including activities at the field level, by sharing experiences, findings, and recommendations on persons with disabilities;

8. *Stresses* the importance of improving data and statistics on persons with disabilities, in compliance with national legislation on the protection of personal data, so that they can be compared internationally and domestically for purposes of policy design, planning and evaluation from the disability perspective, urges Governments, in this regard, to cooperate with the United Nations Statistics Division in the continuing development of global statistics and indicators on disability, and encourages them to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Division to build national capacities for national data-collection systems;

9. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide special protection to persons with mental or physical disabilities, who may experience multiple or aggravating forms of discrimination, with special emphasis on integrating them into society and protecting and promoting their full enjoyment of all human rights;

10. *Urges* Governments to address the situation of persons with disabilities with respect to all actions taken to implement existing human rights treaties to which they are parties;

11. *Invites* States to continue to actively participate in the negotiations within the Ad Hoc Committee on a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;

12. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability, with a view to strengthening its capacity to support catalytic and innovative activities to implement fully the World Programme of Action and the Standard Rules, including the work of the Special Rapporteur, and to support activities to build national capacities, with emphasis on priorities for action identified in the present resolution;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to support the initiatives of relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as those of regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, for the promotion of the full enjoyment of all human rights by, and non-discrimination in respect of, persons with disabilities and the further implementation of the World Programme of Action, as well as their efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in technical cooperation activities, both as beneficiaries and as decision makers;

14. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in improving the accessibility of the United Nations for persons with disabilities, and urges him to continue to implement plans to provide a barrier-free environment;

15. *Welcomes* the review by the Secretary-General in his current report on the fourth quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action,[6] and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution III
Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations as well as other relevant international instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] and the two Optional Protocols thereto,[2]

Reaffirming the obligation of States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and their full enjoyment by young people,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] and recognizing that the Declaration includes important goals and targets pertaining to youth,

Recalling and reaffirming the commitments made at the major United Nations conferences and summits held since 1990 and their follow-up processes, in particular those commitments that are related to youth, including youth employment,

Recognizing that the participation of young people is an asset and a prerequisite for sustainable economic growth and social development, and expressing deep concern about the magnitude of youth unemployment and underemployment throughout the world and its profound implications for the future of our societies, particularly those in developing countries,

Acknowledging that poverty, among other factors, represents a serious challenge to the full and effective participation and contribution of young people to society,

Recalling its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, annexed thereto,

Recalling also its resolution 54/120 of 17 December 1999, in which it took note with appreciation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998,[4] and its resolutions 56/117 of 19 December 2001 and 57/165 of 18 December 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the World Youth Report 2003[5] and promoting youth employment;[6]

2. *Reaffirms* that the ten priority areas identified in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, namely, education, employment, hunger and poverty, health issues, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure, girls and young women, and youth participation, remain areas of crucial importance;

3. *Takes note* of the five issues of concern to young people identified in the World Youth Report 2003, namely, the mixed impact of globalization on young women and men, the use of and access to information and communication

[1] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[2] Resolution 54/263, annexes I and II.
[3] See resolution 55/2.
[4] See WCMRY/1998/28, chap. I, resolution 1.
[5] E/CN.5/2003/4; see also A/58/79.
[6] A/58/229.

technologies, the dramatic increase of human immunodeficiency virus infections among young people and the impact of the epidemic on their lives, the active involvement of young people in armed conflict, both as victims and as perpetrators, and the increased importance of addressing intergenerational issues in an ageing society;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of the full and effective participation of young people and youth organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels in promoting and implementing the World Programme of Action and in evaluating the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in its implementation, as well as the need to support the activities of mechanisms that have been set up by young people and youth organizations, bearing in mind that girls, boys, young women and young men have the same rights but different needs and strengths and are active agents in decision-making processes, and for positive change and development in society;

5. *Also recognizes* the great importance of empowering young people by building their capacity to achieve greater independence, overcoming constraints to their participation and providing them with opportunities to make decisions that affect their lives and well-being;

6. *Calls upon* all Member States, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to make every possible effort to implement the World Programme of Action, aiming at cross-sectoral youth policies, by integrating a youth perspective into all planning and decision-making processes relevant to youth;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work done by the regional commissions to implement the World Programme of Action, to follow up the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in their respective regions, in coordination with regional meetings of ministers responsible for youth and regional non-governmental youth organizations, and to provide advisory services to support national youth policies and programmes in each region, and encourages them to continue to do so;

8. *Recommends* that the United Nations system, on the basis of the positive experience of youth participation in the work of the United Nations, inter alia, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the special session of the General Assembly on children, continue to provide opportunities for dialogue between Governments and representatives of youth organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through forums, open-ended dialogues, meetings and debates;

9. *Decides* that the organization of a future world youth forum should be based on a decision of the General Assembly;

10. *Notes* the decision of eight countries to volunteer as lead countries in the preparation of national reviews and action plans on youth employment;

11. *Encourages* Member States to prepare national reviews and action plans on youth employment, either integrated into their national action plans for employment or issued as separate documents, to make full use of existing data and statistics and to involve young people and youth organizations in this process, taking

into account, inter alia, the commitments made by Member States in this regard, in particular those included in the World Programme of Action, and, where such reviews and actions plans exist, to submit them to the Secretariat by September 2004;

12. *Invites*, within the context of the Youth Employment Network, the International Labour Organization, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the World Bank and other relevant specialized agencies, to assist and support, upon request, the efforts of Governments in the elaboration of national reviews and action plans, and to undertake a global analysis and evaluation of progress made in this regard;

13. *Recommends* devoting at its sixtieth session, in 2005, two plenary meetings to review the situation of youth and achievements attained in the implementation of the World Programme of Action ten years after its adoption;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with regard to paragraph 4 above, to consider organizing a consultative meeting with youth organizations and youth representatives, taking into account equitable geographical distribution, on the evaluation of the progress made and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the World Programme of Action in preparation for the two plenary meetings of the General Assembly to be held in 2005, and to include the outcome of the meeting in his report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session;

15. *Invites* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund, and requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate actions to encourage contributions;

16. *Notes with appreciation* the provision by some Member States of expertise and financial resources to support the activities of the Youth Employment Network, and invites all Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Network in support of action taken at the country level within the framework of the Network;

17. *Reiterates* the call made in the World Programme of Action to Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings, thus broadening the channels of communication and enhancing the discussion of youth-related issues, and requests the Secretary-General to convey this invitation again to Member States;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session, with a comprehensive report including an evaluation of the implementation since 1995 of the priority areas identified in the World Programme of Action, including actions taken by Member States, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, regional commissions and youth organizations in their multidisciplinary work for and with youth;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the report requested in paragraph 18 above, to bear in mind the five issues identified in paragraph 3 above and discuss them in an annex to the report;

20. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a global analysis and evaluation of national action plans on youth employment.

21. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report on the preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004.[1]

[1] E/CN.5/2003/6 (see also A/58/67-E/2003/49).